

Play Analysis for Various Design Areas

- I. Given Circumstances:
 - A. Environmental Facts:
 1. Geographical location, including climate
 2. Date: year, season, time of day
 3. Economic environment
 4. Political environment
 5. Social environment
 6. Religious environment
 - B. Previous Action
 - C. Significance of the facts in the total meaning of the play
- II. Dramatic Action
 - A. Divide script into units
 - B. Give each unit a nominative phrase
- III. Idea
 - A. Meaning of the title
 - B. Philosophical statements in the play: cite actual quotations
 - C. How does the action lead directly to the meaning
- IV. Moods

After the number of each unit express the mood for that unit in two categories:

 - A. a list of mood adjectives with one for each of the senses
 - B. a mood image
- VII. Tempos

After the number of each unit, designate the rate of speed for that unit by using a rate word (for example, fast, medium-slow, largo). Also make a horizontal graph of the tempo relationships by inserting connecting perpendicular lines to a horizontal line in order to show the peaks and valleys of tempo change.
- VIII. Tone

Summarize the analysis by finding a word or phrase to declare the play as a whole.
- IX. What form of drama is this play? Could it be interpreted in other way?
- X. What type of structure does it have? What is the basic story?
- XI. In what style (mode) is it written? Could it be interpreted in other ways?
- XII. What is the mood of the play? Does this vary with scenes or characters? What are the pivotal scenes (turning points in the course of the events)?
- XIII. What colors and textures are suggested by the mood, style, and form of drama of this play?
- XIV. What images are evoked throughout the play? Do they reoccur? To whom are these images related? Which images are central to or represent the soul or spirit of the play? List words that evoke visual images. Do images change from scene to scene?
- XV. Can the images in the play be visualized? Do they relate to characters specifically?
- XVI. Combine information in a chart and/or plot which graphically illustrates the action and needs of the play for your design area.